

House Resolution 1172

By: Representatives Morgan of the 39th, Wix of the 33rd, and Teilhet of the 40th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Austell Police Department and inviting Police Chief Bob Starrett and
2 Mayor Joe Jerkins to appear before the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the midst of one of the worst natural disasters in United States history and
4 the chaos that ensued, the members of the Austell Police Department demonstrated the very
5 best of human nature in their selfless and courageous aid to law enforcement in the New
6 Orleans area; and

7 WHEREAS, unwilling to sit back and do nothing while New Orleans suffered in the
8 aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Austell Police Chief Bob Starrett determinedly fought
9 bureaucratic obstacles in order to answer the pleas for help from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's
10 Department, finally getting approval to take a group of officers to Louisiana, thanks to Mayor
11 Joe Jerkins and the Austell City Council; and

12 WHEREAS, once there, Chief Starrett and his officers slept on the floor of a truck stop and
13 worked night patrol in Jefferson Parish for three days before being contacted by a law
14 enforcement agency that was even more desperate for help, the New Orleans Police
15 Department; and

16 WHEREAS, Chief Starrett quickly alerted the media of the New Orleans Police Department's
17 dire need for supplies, and through his efforts, the Austell Police Department raised
18 donations of much needed toiletries, uniforms, bulletproof vests, food, and Bibles, among
19 many other vital items; and

20 WHEREAS, Chief Starrett and several of his officers tirelessly worked in New Orleans by
21 conducting searches, recovering bodies, helping citizens in distress, and handing out
22 supplies, while Austell Police Chaplain Bob Neal counseled traumatized members of the
23 extremely overtaxed New Orleans Police Department; and

1 WHEREAS, the Austell Police Department's brave, generous, and compassionate service to
2 the New Orleans area is a testament to all that is right with humanity, and it is abundantly
3 fitting and proper for this body to recognize this most outstanding law enforcement agency.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 the members of this body join in commending the Austell Police Department for its heroic
6 assistance to Jefferson Parish and New Orleans law enforcement in the aftermath of
7 Hurricane Katrina.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Austell Police Chief Bob Starrett and Mayor Joe Jerkins
9 are invited to the House of Representatives for purposes of being recognized by the House
10 and receiving an appropriate copy of this resolution at a date and time to be fixed by the
11 Speaker of the House.